

REMARKS

Claims 15-18 and 28-30 are pending in the application.

Claims 15, 16, and 29 have been amended herein to delete the phrase "or synthetic members." Additionally, claims 15 and 16 have been amended to replace the phrase "cultured under conditions to produce a layer of extracellular matrix" with "which produce a layer of extracellular matrix." Claim 29 has also been amended to delete the phrase "under culturing conditions." Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments which are made to better define the claimed invention and entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants assume that any rejections not repeated in the outstanding office action have been withdrawn.

I. Rejections Under Section 112, Second Paragraph.

Claims 15-18 and 28-30 are rejected for various reasons as purportedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The individual rejections are discussed below.

A. Claims 15, 16, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being unclear as to what is encompassed by "synthetic members."

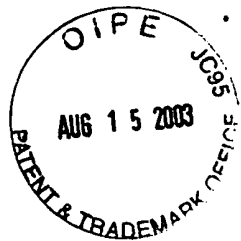
In order to expedite prosecution, these claims have been amended to delete the phrase "or synthetic members." Applicants understand such materials to be already covered by the phrase "exogenous matrix components."

Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

B. Claims 15, 16, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being unclear as to the metes and bounds of cultured "under conditions to produce a layer of extracellular matrix."

Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to replace the phrase "cultured under conditions to produce a layer of extracellular matrix" with "which produce a layer of extracellular matrix." Although the rejected claim language does not appear in claim 29, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 29 has also been amended to delete the phrase "under culturing conditions" from step (b).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been overcome. For this reason, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and to withdraw this rejection.



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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all the bases for rejection of the pending claims are now moot. The Examiner is requested to reconsider the rejections and to withdraw them and to pass this case to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison E. Corkery
Registration No. 52,770

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Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
617 526-6110 (Telephone)
617 526-5000 (Fax)

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